Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1. (previously presented) A method of producing an amino acid selected from the group consisting of L-lysine, L-threonine and L-isoleucine comprising:

culturing an altered *Corynebacterium glutamicum* cell, wherein said *Corynebacterium glutamicum* cell has a disrupted phosphoglucose isomerase (*pgi*) gene, wherein yields of an amino acid selected from the group consisting of L-lysine, L-threonine and L-isoleucine from said altered *Corynebacterium glutamicum* cell having a disrupted pgi gene are from about 1% to about 25% greater than yields from a *Corynebacterium glutamicum* cell having a non-disrupted pgi gene.

Claims 2-7 (cancelled)

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said altered *Corynebacterium glutamicum* cell having a disrupted *pgi* gene is produced by

(a) subcloning an internal region of a *pgi* gene into a <u>suicide</u> vector; and

(b) inserting said resulting vector from step (a) into a *Corynebacterium glutamicum* genome via homologous recombination.

Claims 9 - 23 (cancelled)

24. (new) A method of producing L-amino acids selected from the group consisting of L-lysine, L-threonine and L-isoleucine, comprising:

culturing an altered *Corynebacterium glutamicum* cell having a decreased amount of phosphoglucose isomerase enzymatic activity as compared to an unaltered *Corynebacterium glutamicum* cell wherein said L-amino acid yields from said altered *Corynebacterium glutamicum* cell are from about 1% to about 25% greater than yields from an unaltered *Corynebacterium glutamicum* cell, wherein said *Corynebacterium glutamicum* cell has a disrupted *pgi* gene.

25. (new) The method of claim 24, wherein said altered *Corynebacterium glutamicum* cell having a disrupted *pgi* gene is produced by

(a) subcloning an internal region of a *pgi* gene into a suicide vector; and

(b) inserting said resulting vector from step (a) into a *Corynebacterium glutamicum* genome via homologous recombination.